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T H E
C H R I S T I A N's
U N I V E R S A L
P R A Y E R.

By JAMES GRAHAM, M. D.

The THIRD EDITION.

“ Prayer is the supreme—the great Mother Duty : All other Duties and Virtues are its Progeny ;—are brought forth, nursed, nourished, and sustained by it. Devotion is the sole Asylum of Human Frailty, and sole Support of Heavenly Perfection : it is the golden Chain of Union between HEAVEN and EARTH—keeps open the blessed communication.”

YOUNG.

After this manner therefore pray ye. Matt. vi. 9.

B A T H:

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[** Entered at Stationer's Hall.]



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE following Prayer was not written with an Intention of publishing it; but with a view of impressing more strongly the Beauty and the Importance of Our Lord's Prayer, on my own Mind, and on the Mind of each Individual under my own Roof: At the Request, however, of some of my most respected Friends, I have ventured to print it. But such is the Power, and such the Partiality of Friendship, as to convert, sometimes, even Blemishes into Beauties. I shall be very happy if the Good and Judicious among the Public allow, that the beautiful Simplicity of the Divine Original is not obscured or deformed by the Light I have presumed to place it in.—For my own part, I wish for ever to FEEL and to Retain, in my Addresses to the DEITY, the following Sentiments and Expressions; or, to contemplate with rapturous Admiration, yet with respectful silent Ejaculation, THAT BEING, supremely Glorious! whose due Praises Words indeed cannot properly express—whose adorable Attributes, the most exalted Ideas of Archangels cannot sufficiently comprehend!—

Pall-Mall, Feb. 1, 1776.

*** The rapid Sale and very favourable Reception which the two first Impressions of the following Prayer met with from an indulgent Public, calls for my most grateful Acknowledgements; and hath encouraged me to venture a Third Edition. I am happy to find that the obliging Partiality of my Friends has not met with so much Discredit as I was apprehensive of: And I have some Reason to think that it hath been the Means, under GOD, of expanding the Ideas, inflaming the Devotion, and letting out a more copious, and a more acceptable Flow of the Good and Charitable Affections of the Christian Heart.—May some Comforts and Advantages still continue to flow from it, to the Serious and Devout, in Public as well as in Private Worship,—may the humble pious Heart of every Denomination—feel the Warm Sparkling—the Delightful Elevation—the Holy Enthusiasm of true Devotion,—and may it give New Wings as it were to the Soul, in its onward Flight, till it FEELS itself in the blissful Circle of Divine Attraction—melting at last in the Immensity of Divine Love!*

BATH, Oct. 1776.



T H E

Christian's Universal Prayer.

OUR FATHER—our good and gracious Father!—thou permittest, nay teachest us, to address thee by that affectionate—that endearing appellation.—How great the privilege!—how comfortable the condescension!—With humble confidence, therefore, and with cordial affection, we look up to Thee, and grasping, not only our kindred and our kind, but the whole Universe, we address thee jointly and in their behalf, not as mine only, but, as thou hast taught us, as *OUR* Father—**WHICH ART IN HEAVEN!** who art necessarily, and eternally, existing in Heaven,—in regions of purity,—of peaceful serenity,—of intellectual light,—of universal love!—Are we, then, *thy* Children—the Children of so great a Father!—Descended from thee, are we too to exist eternally?—Humbly imitating thy glorious perfections, teach us, O Heavenly Father, to think—to speak—and to act as becomes the Offspring of so high a Parent;—and, whilst in our minority, unable to enjoy,

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and unworthy to possess the Inheritance we may hereafter through thy mercy attain,—O grant, that we may anxiously cultivate those dispositions which qualify, and pursue those paths that may lead us finally home to Thee, Our Father who art in Heaven;—HALLOWED BE THY NAME,—thy great and holy Name! Ever, and by all be it mentioned with humble, and with hallowed lips; and by whatever appellation, or designation,—by whatever figure, or form, we conceive of thee, or presume to express thy nature, or thy name, still be thou hallowed—still be our minds impressed with awful reverence, and our souls with grateful love.—We, therefore, with prostrate hearts, and with pure affections, bend at the throne of Grace, before thee Our Father who art in Heaven and on Earth supreme!—praying—that THY KINGDOM COME,—thy blessed Kingdom of universal charity, purity, holiness, and boundless love;—we humbly, yet ardently pray—that it may come among us,—that thy spiritual Kingdom may, in its truth and simplicity, be established in every heart,—innocence, alas! is not there to support it, but O stretch forth thy merciful arm; cleanse us from sin; and build it on humility, sincerity, and love:—and when established—oh! let not the depravity of our nature, nor the wild gusts of wayward passions, disturb the intellectual harmony, nor subvert the divine œconomy of thy heavenly Kingdom.

Kingdom.—But, if the full tide of Sin and Corruption should in our hearts prevent the establishment of thy blessed Kingdom—change, graciously vouchsafe to change,—O thou great Ocean of goodness and mercy!—the polluted stream into a torrent of contrition, that our Souls, through time and in eternity, may be expanded, and sweetly poured forth, towards Thee—the first—the inexhaustable Fountain!—For this happy purpose—**THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**,—thy blessed will, thy righteous laws, which thou hast been pleased to write in every heart, in such characters, as even the blackness of sin cannot wholly obliterate,—thy blessed will, which, in the divine purity and simplicity of its own native light, shines forth graciously revealed in the Gospel of Peace, O may it more universally be done on Earth, even with those pure and elevated affections, with which it is done in Heaven.—For that purpose, O thou great principle of Light! be pleased to shine on thy Word and Will:—and may the Divine Light be so powerfully reflected on every mind, that we may thereby be led into the paths of Peace; and may the ineffable Blessedness of those who do thy Will on Earth, be loudly proclaimed, and powerfully transfused from heart to heart;—till the holy ardour, becoming universal, transform human into divine;—till mortals, doing thy will on earth, be charmed with the supreme *Beauty of Holiness*,
and,

and, cultivating more and more the delightful intercourse, feel the transcendent blessedness of cleaving to Thee, the Rock of Ages ; and taste, by sweet anticipation, a goodly measure of the Joys of Immortality, in doing thy Will on Earth, as it is done in Heaven. —GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,—day by day, O most bounteous Being!—this day, O liberal Father, do we beseech thee to bestow upon us—such a portion of the Bread of Life, as may nourish up our Souls to the enjoyment of an eternal existence:—and we likewise look up to Thee, for the bread thou hast made necessary for the comfort and nourishment of our frail bodies.—We see, daily, the uncertainty, and unexpected vicissitudes of all things sublunary ; and we are convinced that it is our duty, and our interest—to wait on thee, praying that thou would'st continue to open thy liberal Hand,—to feed us with convenient food,—AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THEM THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US.—We presume not, O Heavenly Father, we presume not to solicit *thee* to pardon *our* offences, unless we, from our hearts, first forgive *all* those who have any way offended *us* :—for we cannot expect that Thou, the Omniscient God,—the purest and most equitable of all Beings,—wilt pardon our constant and highly aggravated offences against Thee, our Maker and best Benefactor ; when we, sinful creatures ! dependent on thee,

Thee, and on each other, will not freely forgive those who accidentally, or even wilfully have done us wrong:—fill us therefore with meekness, charity, and brotherly love: and shed abroad in our hearts, a spirit of gentleness,—of forbearance—and of universal benevolence;—teaching us, not only truly to forgive, but sincerely to pray for—*all* those who have trespassed against us, persecuted, or despitefully used us:—Then, O merciful Father, ! then shall we look up to Thee, praying with humble confidence, and with cordial assurance, that THOU wilt forgive *our* trespasses, as *we* heartily have forgiven *all* those who have trespassed against *us*.—AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,—guide and defend us, O most gracious Father!—suffer us not to be led into Temptation; but keep us, on every occasion, under the perpetual influences of thy holy Spirit: the frailty and depravity of our own hearts and nature, will lead us powerfully into Temptation;—the sinfulness of the World, and the mighty influence of Custom, will entangle us therein;—but Thou, O Father omnipotent! defend us by Thine Almighty Power—restrain us by thy saving Grace—and deliver us from evil!—from those evils—those temptations—and those sins—that most commonly, most strongly, and most easily beset us.—In our own strength we are very weak;—in our own

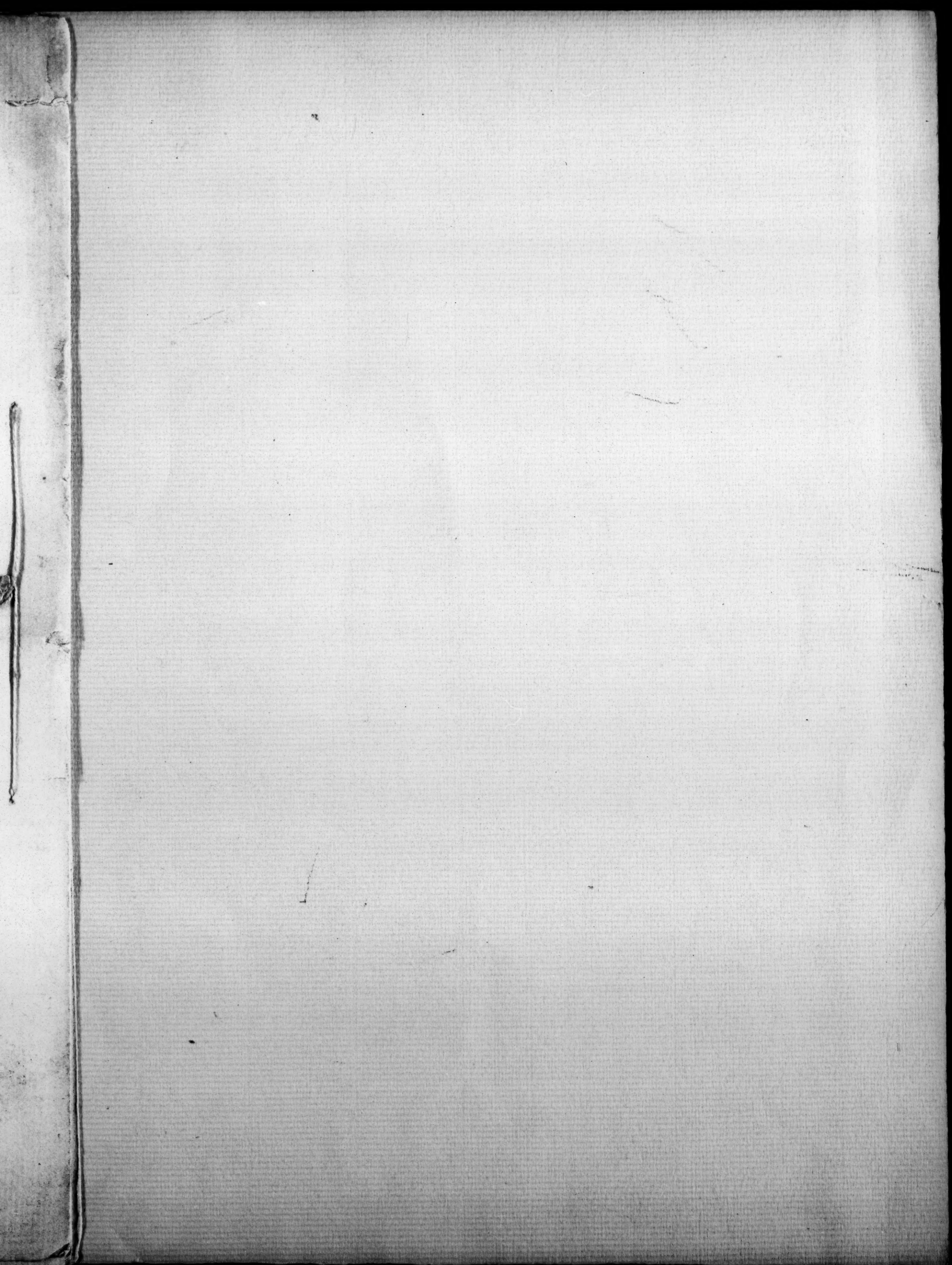
greatest security utterly defenceless ;—draw us therefore, Almighty Jehovah ! Oh draw us, with the cords of thy love, from our ownelves—unto Thee ;—from the sinful vanity of self-sufficiency—into the compassionate arms of thy mercy ;—there to be subdued from the bondage of self-dependance ;—there to be fashioned after Thy glorious Image :—and, O may the divine impression, like Thyself, be permanent ;—O cloath us with humility,—gird us with constant watchfulness ;—and from hearts burning with gratitude and love, may the sweet incense of unfeigned devotion ever rise, pure and acceptable, to Thine eternal Throne !—Thus shall we not be led into Temptation :—thus shall we be delivered from all evil :—thus shall we rejoice :—thus shall we exult—in Thee, Jehovah—Jesus—the mighty Lord—the Prince of Peace—the eternal Father !—FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY,—thine is the absolute—the universal—and the eternal Kingdom !—Thine the power omnipotent and uncontrollable ;—and to Thee solely, and ultimately, shall redound ineffable and transcendent Glory !—Knowing, most merciful God ! that Thou can’st,—we faithfully and cordially trust that Thou wilt—hear and answer these Prayers and Petitions, by Thee with wisdom and condescension taught,—and by us with humble thankfulness adopted.—

adopted. — To Thee, therefore, our Father which art in Heaven!—to Thee, mysterious Three in Unity,—to Thee, the incomprehensible and supreme first Cause—be ascribed by all Things animate and inanimate—by all Systems and Worlds, visible and invisible—by all ranks and orders of Beings and Inteligences, from the first and highest Thrones in the highest Heaven—to the meanest and minutest insect and atom in the last scale and lowest depths of Creation;—to THEE, the great Alpha and Omega—the first and the last—the beginning, support, and end of all Things,—to Thee *alone* be for ever ascribed all adoration, might, majesty, dominion, thanksgiving, praise and hallelujahs;—That when this comprehensive and all prevailing Prayer, which hath so long, and so universally been offered up to thy eternal Throne shall be fully answered, and the great purposes for which it was graciously communicated at length completely fulfilled,—it may return and melt into the Divine Mind from whence it issued,—*saying* “ Father of Heaven, eternal;—into Thy Bosom receive Thy messenger;—for hallowed is thy Name;—Thy Kingdom being now come, Thy will is done on earth, as it is in Heaven;—the bread of Life is received with gladness;—sin and trespassing is no more;—no more do temptations lead astray;—but, delivered from all evil,
—Thy

—Thy Kingdom is now become universal—Thy Power and Thy
Goodness confessed supreme;—and Thy Glory transcendent—
FOR EVER AND EVER, AMEN!"

F I N I S.





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